

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/872,401

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Thai Phan

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicants' brief and an applicants' interview on Aug. 03, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 5-7, 9-11, 14-19 and 22-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 08/04/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Thai Phan
THAI PHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. In a telephone interview on Aug. 3, 2006, applicants' representative Mr. Frank Nuzzi authorized the amendment as follows:

In claim 1, after "one half hour", please insert ", and wherein the model comprises a simulation"

Please cancel claims 3, 12, and 20,

In claim 10, after "one half hour", please insert ", and wherein the model comprises a simulation"

In claim 18, after "one half hour", please insert ", and wherein the model comprises a simulation".

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claimed invention is directed to a method for simulating and optimizing the performance of electronics assembly equipment (system) to assist a particular sales session for providing a good quality of sale services in the customer communication.

Claim 1 of the claimed invention requires:

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defining one or more performance metrics for a proposed solution,
prioritizing the identified solutions by running the model for each of the identified solutions,

selecting a proposed solution from among the prioritized, identified solutions,
quantifying the benefit of the proposed solution relative to the one or more performance metrics, and

communication the quantified benefit to the customer, wherein the quantified benefit comprises a cost of ownership measure and the customer's electronics assembly system is modeled within approximately one half hour, and wherein the electronics assembly system comprises a simulation and a simulation model.

Claim 10 requires:

establishing a model of an assembly system comprising the selected configuration,

comparing the at least one performance measure against the customer constraints, and

If the at least one performance measure satisfies the customer constraints, offering to sell at least a subset of the electronics assembly equipment of the configuration to the customer, wherein the customer's electronics assembly system comprising the selected configuration is modeled within approximately one half hour, and the model comprises a simulation and a simulation model.

Claim 18 requires:

establishing, during the session, a model of an assembly system having a plurality of possible configurations,

running the model on a computer to predict the measure of performance for the system, for each of the subset of the plurality of configurations,

quantifying a benefit of the preferred configuration, wherein the quantified benefit comprises a cost of ownership measure, wherein the customer's electronics assembly system is modeled within approximately one half hour, and wherein the model comprises a simulation.

Because the prior art of record does not expressly disclose or suggest the claimed invention with limitations above, the claims are allowed.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-3783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah can be reached on 571-272-2279. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

2. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dec. 07, 2007


Thai Phan